



Assemblymember Mary Hayashi Adjourns In Memory of the Four Fallen Oakland Police Officers



Sergeant Mark Dunakin



Officer John Hege



Sergeant Erv Romans



Sergeant Daniel Sakai

Speaking on the Assembly Floor, Monday, March 23, 2009:

Madam Speaker and Members, I rise today to ask that we adjourn in memory of the four Oakland police officers who lost their lives this past weekend.

Sergeant Mark Dunakin, Sergeant Ervin Romans, Sergeant Daniel Sakai, and Officer John Hege, were veteran officers who served their community with honor and valor.

Sergeant Mark Dunakin lived in Tracy with his wife Angela – herself a former Alameda County Sheriff's deputy – and their three children. He grew up in Pleasanton and graduated from Chabot College in Hayward. Sergeant Dunakin loved police work, having joined the Oakland Police Department in 1991. He worked homicide cases until transferring to the traffic division a few years ago, becoming a motorcycle officer, a position highly coveted by many in the police force. He was 40 years old.

Sergeant Erv Romans of Danville was a SWAT veteran. He lived in Danville with his wife and three children. A former Marine Corps drill sergeant, he joined the Oakland Police Department in 1996. A skilled instructor, he taught hundreds of academy students about firearms and the use of nonlethal weapons. He was 43.

Sergeant Daniel Sakai lived in Castro Valley with his wife, Jennifer – a UC Berkeley police officer – and their 4 year old daughter. He has been described as being “one of the most wonderful people you could meet” and as “having the highest ethics.”

A rising star on the Oakland police force, he had recently been named leader of the SWAT entry team. He joined the Department in 2000, and prior to joining the SWAT division, was serving as a K-9 officer with his dog, Doc. He was just 35 years old.

Officer John Hege joined the Oakland Police Department 10 years ago after serving as a reserve officer. He graduated from St. Mary's College in Moraga and had taught physical education at Tennyson High School in Hayward. A resident of Concord, he was loved and respected by his neighbors. He was 41.

They each put their lives on the line in the name of public safety, working to protect our children and families, and striving to make Oakland a better place to live.

While we are aware of the risks that our officers go through, we never imagine a loss of this magnitude, and it does not make grieving any easier.

This violent tragedy that began with a routine traffic stop, reminds us how real these risks are, and how much courage is shown by all those who serve in law enforcement.

This is a terrible loss for so many, not just for the community of Oakland, but for all of us across this state.

I ask that we take this moment to demonstrate our support and express our condolences to the families of these fallen officers, and to their fellow officers at the Oakland Police Department. Thank you.

Memorial Trust Funds Have Been Established for the Families of the Fallen Police Officers:

1. Individual Checks made out to families and mailed to:

c/o OPOA
Attn: Rennee Hassna
555 5th Street
Oakland Ca, 94607

Make checks out to the following:

“Dunakin Children’s Family Trust”
“Romans Children’s Family Trust”
“Sakai Family Trust”

2. Wire transfers directly to Merrill Lynch Accounts...

“Dunakin Children’s Family Trust”

a/c #204-04065

“Romans Children’s Family Trust”

a/c #204-04066

“Sakai Family Trust”

a/c #204-04064

3. Deputy Sheriffs’ Association of Alameda County has established a memorial fund:

Contributions to: S. F. Police Credit Union (SFPCU)
Attn: OPD Memorial Fund
6689 Owens Drive, Suite 125
Pleasanton, CA 94588

Make checks payable to: OPD Memorial Fund